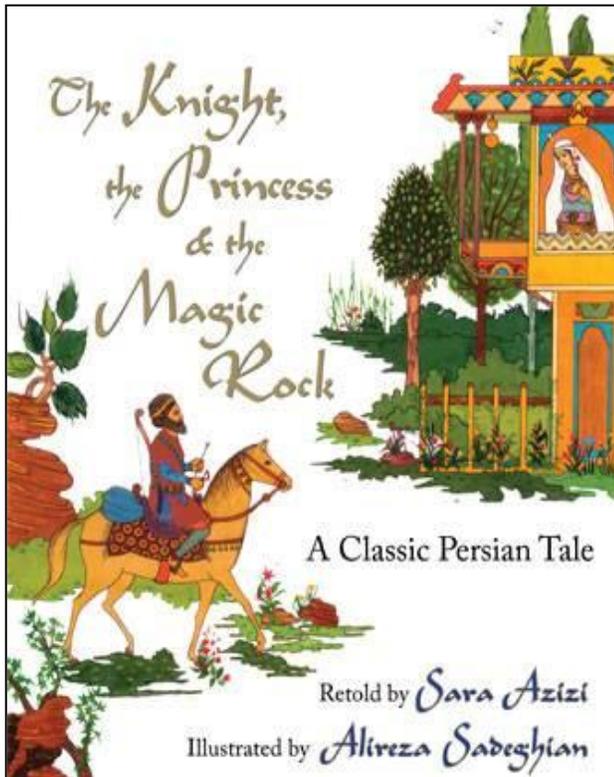


# The Knight, the Princess & the Magic Rock

## A Classic Persian Tale

Retold by Sara Azizi

Illustrated by Alireza Sadeghian



Long ago in the land of Persia, there lived the brave young knight, Bijan (Bee-JAHN). While on a mission for his noble king to save some poor farmers, he fell in love with the beautiful princess Manijeh (Mah-NEE-jeh), daughter of the neighboring king and an enemy of Persia! Soon, their secret love is discovered, and Bijan is imprisoned in a deep pit with a magic rock covering the entrance. The sad princess feels that her beloved knight is lost forever. In desperation, the King of Persia asks a famous warrior, the legendary Rostam, to risk his life and try to rescue Bijan from the enemy.

Rich in symbolism and filled with heroism, secret potions, and the king's all-knowing golden cup, this famous Persian tale, which has been rendered into films, operas, and plays, is now brought to life for a new generation of children in this wonderfully illustrated book.

The story of Bijan and Manijeh is originally found in the legendary "Book of Kings" (*Shahnameh*), written over a thousand years ago, which tells the story of the mystical past of ancient Persia.

### This Book Features:

- ❖ An insightful background to the story of Bijan and Manijeh from the "Book of Kings".
- ❖ 32 beautiful color illustrations by Alireza Sadeghian, a professional artist and children's book illustrator.
- ❖ A section on the symbolic interpretation of the story.

### Publication Details

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-937786-01-4
- ❖ Pub Date: July, 2012
- ❖ Price: \$15.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 9.25x11
- ❖ Page Count: 32 hardback



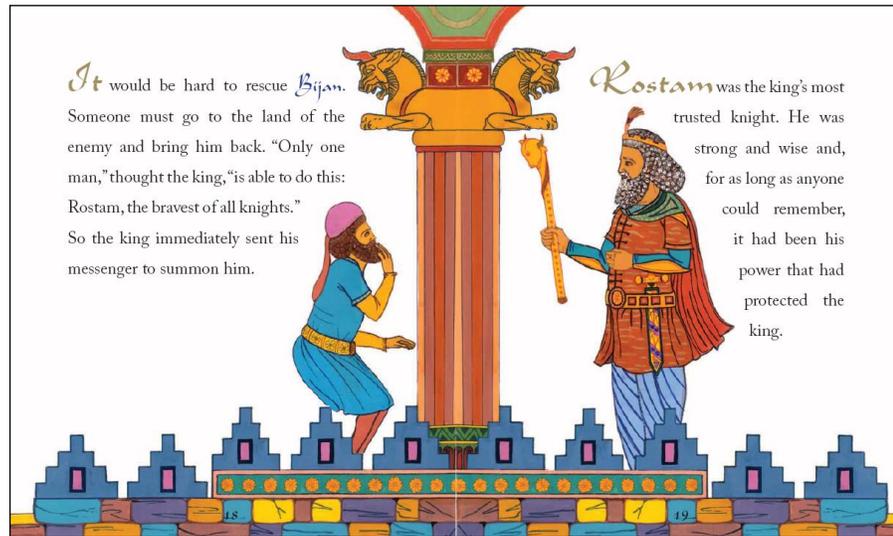
# The Knight, the Princess & the Magic Rock

“Azizi’s retelling of this major Persian tale emphasizes its mythopoeic themes; Sadeghian’s gorgeous color illustrations bring to vivid life both the tale and classical Persian art. Supplemental interpretive commentary gives more mature readers food for spiritual thought.”

—**Publishers Weekly**



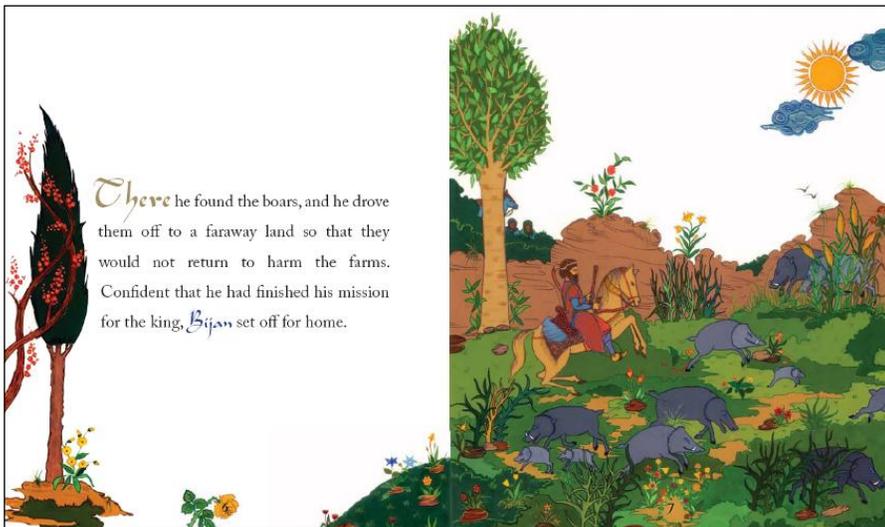
Sample Pages



*It* would be hard to rescue *Bijan*.

Someone must go to the land of the enemy and bring him back. “Only one man,” thought the king, “is able to do this: Rostam, the bravest of all knights.” So the king immediately sent his messenger to summon him.

*Rostam* was the king’s most trusted knight. He was strong and wise and, for as long as anyone could remember, it had been his power that had protected the king.



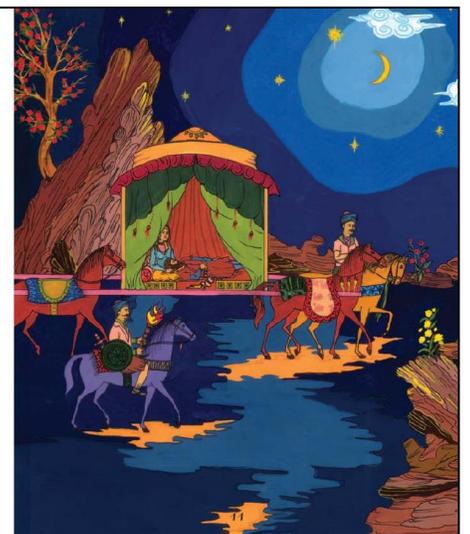
*There* he found the boars, and he drove them off to a faraway land so that they would not return to harm the farms. Confident that he had finished his mission for the king, *Bijan* set off for home.

[*This*] is an easily read and enjoyable story with beautiful illustrations in the style of an ancient ethnic tale. What’s exceptional about this version (in the form of a children’s book) are the illustrations by Alireza Sadeghian.... The author, Sara Azizi, is careful to represent this “classic tale” as basically as possible and she does a good job.

—**Foreword Magazine**

“A wonderful and heavenly story with a hero and heroine and the triumphant power of faith. It contains beautiful classic illustrations in the Persian style!”  
—**Demi**, best-selling author of *The Empty Pot*

*She* came up with a plan. She gave *Bijan* a magic potion which caused him to sleep, and then she had him secretly carried away to her father’s palace on a covered palanquin. When *Bijan* awoke, he found himself in his enemy’s fortress, though he did not care so long as he and *Manijeh* were together.



## About the Author of *The Knight, the Princess & the Magic Rock*

SARA AZIZI is a writer and storyteller who has wide-ranging interests in the arts in general and traditional Persian literature in particular. The goal of her work is to bring the beauty of Persian culture to a wider Western audience. A native of Iran, she has lived and studied in Potsdam, New York, and Toronto. *The Knight, the Princess & the Magic Rock* is her first book to be published in the US.



## About the Illustrator

ALIREZA SADEGHIAN is a professional artist and children's book illustrator. In addition to his design and illustration work, he has also taught art in his native Iran. He holds a degree in the preservation and restoration of historic sites and monuments, and lives in Isfahan, Iran with his wife and two children.

